

Serial No. 10/021,468

Filing Date: October 29, 2001

Amendment and Response to Office Action

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REMARKS

I. Introduction

In response to the final Office Action mailed September 5, 2006, the Assignee submits the following amendments and remarks. Claim 1 has been amended to recite, "wherein the input data file is received via a communications link, ... creating a member profile for the member contributing the input data file, said member profile comprising statistics, which include at least statistics regarding the number of data elements contributed by the contributing member; determining a score for the statistics by comparing the statistics to a threshold; and determining the contributing member's access to the exchange repository based, at least in part, on the score." "[S]pecifying a reciprocity due to the contributing member, wherein the reciprocity due to the contributing member correlates with the input content and determines a response to an inquiry submitted by the contributing member" has been deleted from claim 1. Claims 5, 21, and 22 have been amended to correct articles. Claim 27 has been amended to recite, "wherein the input data file is received via a communications link, ... generating a statistical file based on the input content, said statistical file including at least statistics regarding the number of data elements contributed by the member; determining a score for the statistics by comparing the statistics to a threshold; and determining the contributing member's access to the exchange repository based, at least in part, on the score." "[F]acilitating a determination of a reciprocity due to the contributing member, wherein the reciprocity determines a response to an inquiry submitted by the contributing member" has been deleted from claim 27.

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Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 27 may be found on page 10, lines 1-4, page 13, lines 13-16 and page 14, lines 5-10. After entry of the amendments, claims 1-31 are pending in the application.

The present response is believed to traverse all of the prior Office Action rejections, and allowance of the pending claim is kindly requested. No new matter has been added by the present amendment.

II. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101

The Office Action rejected claims 1-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter. Specifically, the Office Action stated that claims 1 and 27 do not produce a useful, concrete and tangible result. The Assignee respectfully traverses this rejection and requests its reconsideration and withdrawal.

The Office Action stated that reciprocity is not identified “as a number, monetary value, percentage or string” and “[t]herefore, the steps of how to employ an association between an input data file and a business identifier using the input file and by specifying a Reciprocity, are not a practical application and the claims as they are written do not produce a useful, concrete and tangible result.” (Office Action, pg. 4). Claim 1 is amended with the present response to recite the member profile “comprising statistics, which include at least statistics regarding the number of data elements contributed by the contributing member; determining a score for the statistics by comparing the statistics to a threshold; and determining the contributing member’s access to the exchange repository based, at least in part, on the score.” Claim 27 is amended with the present response to recite the statistical

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file "including at least statistics regarding the number of data elements contributed by the member; determining a score for the statistics by comparing the statistics to a threshold; and determining the contributing member's access to the exchange repository based, at least in part, on the score." Accordingly, the Assignee submits that amended claims 1 and 27 produce a useful, concrete and tangible result since a score is determined for the statistics by comparing the statistics to a threshold and the contributing member's access to the exchange repository is determined based, at least in part, on the score. Allowance of claims 1-31 is respectfully requested.

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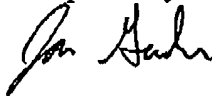
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CONCLUSION

Claims 1 – 31 remain pending in the application. The Office Action rejection is believed to be traversed by the present amendment and response. Allowance of claims 1 – 31 is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney of record at (404) 745-2520 if such contact will facilitate a Notice of Allowance for claims 1 – 31. If any additional fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 11-0855.

Respectfully submitted,



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